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Today's trivia question is: Who dogged Denver?

NICK AUF DER MAUR
PAGE TWO COLUMN

Juan Rodriguez has a peculiar job. He writes the questions and answers for Trivial Pursuit.

"My life over the past over the past 13 years seems like a never-ending stream of questions," he says. "I struggle with them morning, noon and night. Where am I going to find the next one? I have nightmares about them. Am I sure this one is accurate? I constantly question the questions – for historical value, interest, topicality, degree of difficulty, for posterity. I wonder whether or not only a Mensa member can answer them. I fret over the potentially libelous irreverence of some questions. I agonize over what is factual. I fret over and double-check the veracity of sources."

Rodriguez has just completed work on a new Canadian edition due out in the spring. For that, they took out much of the American content in the 4,800-question set sold in the United States, and created 1,600 questions with Canadian angles.

"It is sort of odd that it took about 15 years to come out with a Canadian version of a game invented in Canada, in fact right here in Montreal," he admits.

Juan Rodriguez is probably a familiar name to many readers who will remember it from his roughly 12-year career as the controversial rock-music critic at the Montreal Star and then here at *The Gazette*.

He now lives in Berkeley, Calif., having abruptly left Montreal seven years ago to pursue a flame. He has been back in town for the past couple of weeks visiting friends, and pondering a return to what he feels is probably the best town in the world in which to live.

After all, his job is very flexible, requiring just reference books, access to good libraries and the world of pop culture.

There are endless versions of Trivial Pursuit, having sold 60 million copies in 33 countries and 19 languages.

The game was basically invented across the street from *The Gazette* in the American Tavern, by *The Gazette's* former photo editor, Chris Haney, and Scott Abbott, the former local sports bureau chief for the Canadian Press.

"Former" is the operative word for them, since the game has made them very rich. They now sit around drinking beer at the golf club they own, the Devil's Pulpit Gold Association, in Caledon, outside Toronto.

When their invention took off, they hired their old drinking buddy Rodriguez, who was feeling burnt out from his carousing career as a rock critic, during which he partied as hard as any of the people he covered.

Naturally, I got along very well with him at the time. Still do.

For the past couple of weeks, we've been reminiscing about those days.

Rodriguez often stirred outrage from fans of particular rock stars, since he didn't think much of the music was very good.

He recalled the time he was sent to review a film of a live Neil Young concert. Prior to the screening, he spent several hours at the bar with Mordecai Richler and Tim Burke.

At the theatre, while the film was on, Rodriguez paraded the aisles and did a prolonged Ed Sullivan imitation, saying things like "C'mon let's give him a reeeeally great hand" while friends tried to get him to shut up.

The next morning he was all over CHOM-FM and fans were denouncing him for not being objective and a jerk.

Two weeks later, he covered a John Denver concert, after Rodriguez had read about Denver killing a dog that had trespassed on his property. He wrote a scathing review full of dog metaphors – "he barked, he whined, he whimpered."

The next day, for some reason somebody at CJAD urged a phone-in campaign to protest.

When he came into *The Gazette*, the late Millie Thompson, our longtime switchboard operator, informed him they logged 231 calls denouncing him.

"Must be a record," Rodriguez responded.

"No," Millie said. "You're third, behind one of Aislin's cartoons about the queen and the time they forgot to put the avocado in the guacamole recipe."

Rodriguez also likes to tell about the time when Abbott sent him to cover a Canadiens game after he had spent the day imbibing rums and Coke. Confused, and thinking the game was over after the second period, he went to the dressing room to get quotes.

Told the game was not over, he thought they were playing a practical joke on him because they recognized him as a rock critic and not a sports writer.

"I was convinced all the other reporters were inside getting quotes," he recalled, "so I created a huge fuss and the police had to restrain me. I demanded to see Claude Mouton – 'he'll straighten this out.' Well, he did. It was the last game I covered."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Was it right to charge mother following drowning of autistic son?

On Wednesday morning, police made a gruesome discovery: responding to a 911 call, they found the body of 6-year-old Charles Antoine Blais in the bathtub of his north-end home and his mother, Danielle Blais, bleeding profusely from cuts to the wrists.

Blais was taken to the Pinel Institute. The next day, a judge and a prosecutor went to the hospital and charged her with the first-degree murder of her autistic son.

Parents and people who work with autistic children expressed sympathy toward Blais, who was severely depressed, after she was accused of drowning her child. They say caring for an autistic child is a stressful job with very little support. Blais, a single parent, was having a hard time juggling Charles's care with her new job. She ended up quitting her job a week before her son's death.

The case has sparked debate about whether society is adequately supporting parents of severely handicapped children – a debate that was aired earlier in the case of Saskatchewan farmer Robert Latimer, convicted of second-degree murder in 1994 after admitting that he killed his 12-year-old daughter, Tracy, who had cerebral palsy. Latimer said he piped carbon monoxide into the truck cab, where he had placed his daughter, to end her life-long suffering.

Info-Line: 841-8600
Category 2010
(There is no charge for the call)

This week, our question is:
Was the Crown right in charging Danielle Blais with first-degree murder following the drowning of her autistic 6-year-old son in the bathtub?

Last week, we asked readers:
Should service-industry employees working at night receive danger pay?

Info-Line received 401 calls; 326 Yes, 75 No. The Info-Line results should not be considered scientific polling data. Here are some of your responses:

Any kind of job that involves danger to the worker should be higher paying than a regular job. Security measures should also be taken.

■

Companies that are open all night and serve all night or into the night should have special security systems. Giving them danger pay won't save their lives, but giving them security and up-to-date equipment will.

■

Sure, they should get danger pay at night and they should be compensated for the extra risk they take.

■

Absolutely, they should receive danger pay. If they are volunteering or have no choice but to work at night then they should be paid a little extra.

■

Service employees should receive danger pay, but this is not a solution. Employers should take more care for their employees' safety and more measures should be taken.

■

Fast-food restaurants make a lot of money. These workers should not only receive danger pay but should also be given full-time-employee status and given the perks that go along with it.

■

Danger pay would not protect them but it would give them a little extra for doing this kind of work.

■

In light of what happened at Harvey's last week, more security measures should be taken to make sure that this doesn't happen again. Where are inspectors, for goodness sakes?

■

My daughter was robbed in the same area a couple of weeks before, and I think she should also get trauma pay because the after-effects are horrible and the suffering lasts a long time.

■

It makes no difference if employees work day or night shift. Bring back capital punishment.

■

We pay enough taxes for police forces so, no, they should not receive danger pay. Increase security measures and train them properly.

ZAIRE *Explosions rock Goma*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

who fled to Zaire came mainly from sites of the most brutal slaughter. That made it easier for Hutu militias – which fled to Zairian camps with the civilians – to terrorize refugees into not returning home.

In Goma, the biggest east Zaire city captured by the rebels in the growing insurrection against President Mobutu Sese Seko, two explosions rocked a suburb yesterday, badly wounding two people, witnesses said.

Mobutu, convalescing in France after surgery, said he would go home "in several weeks. Zaire needs me," adding that he was willing to allow an international force to protect refugees from warfare.

Yesterday, the United Nations Security Council urged UN members to prepare for a multinational force to secure corridors for delivering aid to refugees threatened by disease and famine. The Security Council, however, delayed deploying the force after the United States balked at immediate intervention.

The U.S. was urged by European countries, particularly France, to get on board soon. The European Union, through Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino, pointedly criticized the UN for the delay.

"UN Security Council representatives should keep in mind that the thousands of refugees dying every day in Mugunga (refugee camp) cannot spend the weekend in Long Island, as they do," Bonino said in a statement issued in Brussels.

In Kinshasa, the Zairian capital, UN special envoy Raymond Chrétien of Canada, appointed to look for a solution to the refugee crisis, met with Zairian leaders yesterday to discuss the crisis after meeting officials in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on Friday.

After meeting Chrétien, Zairian officials urged the UN to condemn its neighbors for their part in the conflict.

The officials did not say, however, that Zaire would block any international intervention in the country without the condemnation.

Chrétien would not say whether the UN should acknowledge any role that Rwanda – and to a lesser extent, Burundi – has played in the fighting. However, he said the Zairian government was pleased the UN Security Council was preparing to intervene.

"Humanitarian aid is possible only if there is security on the ground," said Chrétien.

Chrétien said Rwandan authorities still deny supporting the mainly Tutsi Zairian rebels.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: CANADIAN PRESS

On this day

NOV. 10: This is the birthday of William Hogarth, in 1697, the English engraver and painter who portrayed the evils of drink, gambling and dissolute living. Not a pretty sight.

Tomorrow

THIS WEEK IN BUSINESS: "Virtual" banking is here – or just months away, depending on your bank. Paying bills and reviewing your transactions on a computer screen are the basic services; you can access your accounts at one bank through the Internet and pipe the information into your personal-finance software. Soon, the banks say, you won't even need to go to an automated banking machine for cash – you'll just download "value" onto a smart card.

WOMAN NEWS: More and more, women are being included in clinical trials to test new drugs, but it is not yet a matter of course to test a drug's efficacy when a woman is pre-menstrual, menstruating, pregnant or post-menopausal. Unless women are included in medical research and clinical trials for new drugs, women will receive second-class medical care. Part 4 in the series, The Politics of Women's Health.

The week's lotteries

SUNDAY
96/11/03
La Quotidienne-4
4-5-4-4 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
7-2-2 (in order)
Banco
3-7-8-9-12-18-21
29-33-35-36-38-46
49-50-51-54-57-65-68
Extra
508544

MONDAY
96/11/04
La Quotidienne-4
8-5-6-0 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
7-5-0 (in order)
Banco
4-14-19-21-22-25-27
31-37-41-43-44-49
52-53-56-57-60-61-67
Extra
413949

TUESDAY
96/11/05
La Quotidienne-4
3-1-8-0 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
2-3-9 (in order)
Banco
2-3-12-14-16-18-28
31-34-35-41-44-45
46-49-50-51-55-59-61
Extra
561516

WEDNESDAY
96/11/06
6/49
4-7-36-39-47-48
Bonus: 20
Extra
686006
La Quotidienne-4
6-7-9-9 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
9-9-8 (in order)
Banco
2-6-8-9-15-16-18
21-24-27-31-34-35
45-47-48-49-53-58-67

THURSDAY
96/11/07
La Quotidienne-4
7-5-6-1 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
2-3-1 (in order)
Banco
4-5-7-10-16-24-25
26-27-28-36-38-43
44-52-61-64-65-67-70
Extra
913366

FRIDAY
96/11/08
Mini Loto
905300
La Quotidienne-4
2-3-7-9 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
4-3-9 (in order)
Banco
1-4-7-8-12-17-23
24-25-26-29-34-36
40-50-51-52-60-62-69
Extra
8-1-9-9-3-4
Super 7
3-16-18-21-23-31-39
Bonus: 43

SATURDAY
96/11/09
6/49
7-21-25-31-42-47
Bonus: 20
Select 42
2-7-11-17-20-38
Bonus: 23
Mise-Tôt: 5-22-29-41
Extra
247484
La Quotidienne-4
6-9-0-6 (in order)
La Quotidienne-3
5-2-0 (in order)
Banco
6-13-16-20-22-26-28
30-34-38-41-43-46
51-53-57-59-60-62-67

NOTE:
In the event of a discrepancy between this list and the official winning list, the latter shall prevail.

Columnist **Dave Barry**
tickles your funny bones
every Sunday in
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